

## *California Integrated Waste Management Board*



A disposal facility sign that asks haulers where their trash is from.

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Now we will discuss a critical DRS task – determining the city or county the waste is from.

A waste origin survey is a method used to obtain information on where the waste is from.

Waste origin is an important element of the DRS for cities and counties because it is used to show if they have met the 50 percent diversion rate, as required by state law.

So, obtaining accurate origin information is vital to cities and counties.

Facility operators, together with haulers, play a key role in obtaining the most accurate information possible.

## **Posting Signs About Origin Surveys**



A sign informing the public of disposal facility rates and waste origin reporting requirements.

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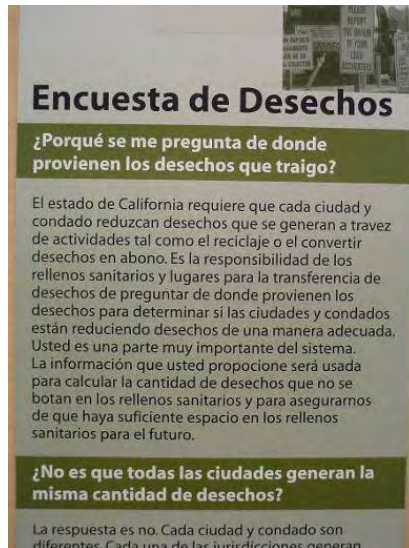
You are encouraged to post clearly visible signs near the gatehouse to notify all incoming customers about the need to collect waste origin information. This will help ensure that they will be prepared to give the attendant the proper information.

Some wording to consider for the signage is:

“State law requires information on where your waste is from.” Or “ Be prepared to tell the attendant where your waste is from”.

The CIWMB recommends that the signs be provided in languages most used by customers of the station so that customers can understand what they must be prepared to tell the gatehouse staff.

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A publication in Spanish informing the Spanish-speaking community of disposal requirements.

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Download or order copies at [www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Publications/default.asp?pubid=1026](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Publications/default.asp?pubid=1026)

This slide shows a handout in Spanish provided by the CIWMB to inform customers of surveys of where the waste is from. This handout, which is available in English and Spanish, can be downloaded or ordered from the CIWMB website as noted at the bottom of the slide.

## **Waste Origin Surveys**

- **Method used to obtain city/county origin of waste**
- **Hauler gives operator origin information of waste loads**
- **Operator obtains weight of waste loads**
- **Information used to estimate amount of waste each city and county disposes**

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When a waste origin survey is underway, station gatehouse staff collects information from haulers or hauler's office on where each load was picked up.

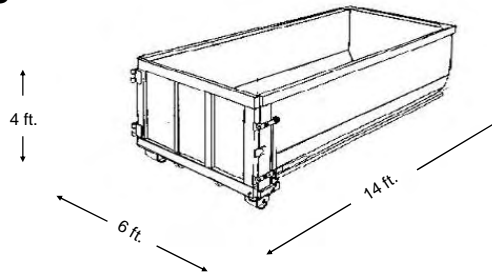
Waste facility staff also obtains the weight of each load using scales or by estimating the weight based on volume conversion factors.

This information is used to estimate the amount of waste each city and county disposes at waste facilities, which will then be used by each city and county to determine their diversion rate.

## Non-Rural Facilities: How Often Are Surveys Done?

- **Daily for:**
  - Every compacted load**
  - Every uncompacted load greater than 12 cubic yards**
- **For example:**

This picture is a drawing of a large 4 ft high, by 6 ft wide, by 14 ft long empty bin.



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At non-rural facilities, waste origin information must be obtained every day for every compacted load and for every uncompacted load larger than 12 cubic yards.

For reference purposes, this slide shows a 12 cubic yard bin with dimensions of 14 feet long by 6 feet wide by 4 feet high.

## **Non-Rural Facilities: How Often Are Surveys Done? (cont'd)**

- **Daily for:**
  - Every compacted load**
  - Every uncompact load greater than 12 cubic yards**
- **One week minimum per quarter for uncompact loads of 12 cubic yards or less**

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For small vehicles hauling uncompact loads of 12 cubic yards or less, the origin survey may consist of a one-week period per quarter.

If you do not collect daily information on where the waste is from for these loads that are 12 cubic yards or less, then the information must be collected during the standard survey weeks of:

March 8-14  
June 8-14  
September 8-14  
December 8-14

The standard one-week per quarter survey is the minimum requirement, but additional surveying requirements may be in effect due to local requirements or company policies.

## **Non-Rural Facilities: How Often Are Surveys Done? (cont'd)**

- **Daily for:**
  - Every compacted load
  - Every uncompacted load greater than 12 cubic yards
- **One week minimum per quarter for uncompacted loads of 12 cubic yards or less**
- **No survey needed for facilities authorized to assign waste to only one city or county or regional agency**

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Facilities receiving waste from a single city, county or regional agency that are authorized to assign all the waste to that single jurisdiction do not need to conduct surveys.

## **Rural Facilities: How Often Are Surveys Done?**

- **One week per quarter minimum for all loads at rural facilities**

**For CIWMB assistance to determine if a transfer station is rural, contact CIWMB staff at [WasteLine@ciwmb.ca.gov](mailto:WasteLine@ciwmb.ca.gov) or (916) 341-6675**

- **No survey needed for facilities authorized to assign waste to only one city or county or regional agency**

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In rural areas, the survey to determine where the waste is from may consist of a one-week period per quarter for all loads.

The one-week per quarter survey is only the minimum requirement and additional surveying requirements may be in effect due to local ordinances or company policies.

Rural facilities receiving waste from a single city, county or regional agency that are authorized to assign all the waste to that single jurisdiction do not need to conduct surveys.

If you need assistance to determine if your facility is in a rural area, please contact CIWMB staff at [WasteLine@ciwmb.ca.gov](mailto:WasteLine@ciwmb.ca.gov) or (916) 341-6675.



## **Origin Information: Obtain from Hauling Company or Ask Driver**



Self hauler with full load of mixed waste including wood and paper.

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There are two primary methods for obtaining the origin information for each waste load:

- 1) asking drivers where the waste is from, and
- 2) obtaining information on where the waste is from directly from hauling companies.

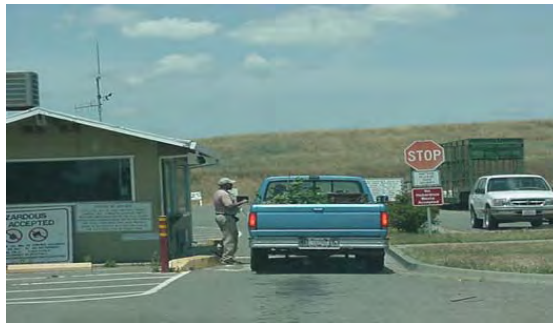
For waste loads coming from waste disposal companies that charge fees to haul residents' and businesses' waste to a station, the gatehouse staff may or may not need to ask the driver where the waste is from. If the hauling company has made arrangements with the facility to send data in another way, the gatehouse operator will not need to ask the driver where the waste is from for loads from that hauling company.

For other loads, the gatehouse staff may need to ask each driver where the waste is from.

Gatehouse staff need to be clearly instructed on which loads they do need to ask the driver and for which loads they do not need to ask the driver where the waste is from.

## Accurate Origin Information

- Origin of the waste is where the waste came from and not where the driver is from



Self hauler at the disposal facility gatehouse. The gatehouse attendant is talking with the truck driver.

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You are responsible for making sure the most accurate origin information for each waste load is recorded. Cities and counties use the waste tonnage information to determine whether they have met the 50% diversion rate. So it is crucial that the waste origin information be as accurate as possible.

For loads where the gatehouse staff does need to ask where the waste is from, they should be trained in how to correctly ask where the waste is from. If it is not clear which cities and/or unincorporated county area a load of waste is from, the gatehouse staff needs to be trained to ask additional questions, as needed, to be sure the information is recorded correctly.

## **Accurate Origin Information**

- **Origin of the waste is where the waste came from and not where the driver is from**
- **Follow up questions may be needed to correctly identify cities and counties that have the same name**

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Some cities and counties have the same name which makes it especially important for the gatehouse staff to ask follow-up questions.

For example, if your gatehouse staff asks where is the waste from, and the driver says Los Angeles, the gatehouse staff should follow up by asking whether the waste is from the City of Los Angeles or an unincorporated Los Angeles County area.

## **Accurate Origin Information**

- **Origin of the waste is where the waste came from and not where the driver is from**
- **Be sure to distinguish between city and county when referring to cities and counties that have the same name**
- **Regional maps may be helpful**
- **Verify origin is correct on receipt and in data system**

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Regional maps with city limits and county lines can be helpful for determining which incorporated city or unincorporated county the waste is coming from. Some facilities have the driver point on a map to show where the waste load is from. One county uses custom software at the landfill that allows the attendant to enter the address of waste origin obtained from the hauler and have the city or county of origin accurately and automatically assigned to the load.

Unfortunately, zip codes cross city and county lines so they should not be used to assign where the waste is from.

If the city or county name is listed on your receipts, the gatehouse staff should verify the city or county listed on the receipt is correct. If computer codes are used at the facility, it is important the codes be double checked for accuracy.

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Self hauler at disposal facility gatehouse with truck load of waste in garbage bags.

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We have put together a list of questions (Q) some gatehouse staff have asked and some of the reasons (R) why each question may not provide the most accurate origin information.

1. Q: Where are you from?

R: This question may not provide accurate information on where the waste is from because the gatehouse staff seems to be asking the driver for the city or county the driver is from, not the city (or county) where the waste is from. It is more correct to ask "Where is the waste from?"

2. Q: What City?

R: This question may not provide accurate waste origin information because the driver may think that they can only reply with the name of a city and not the name of a county area. So if the waste is coming from a county area, it may not be reported and recorded accurately.

3. Q: City or county?

R: This question may not provide accurate waste origin information because it is unclear if the gatehouse staff is asking for where the driver is from or where the waste is from.

## **Origin Questions Used at Facilities**

- **Where is the waste from?**
- **What city or unincorporated county area is the waste from?**
- **Where is the load from?**
- **Where are you hauling from?**

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The previous slide showed examples of questions that may not yield accurate information on load origin. The questions on this slide are asked at various facilities throughout the state and more clearly indicate that the gate attendant is asking for the origin of the waste. A sign regarding the origin survey may also be helpful in addition to the questions asked by the gate attendant.

## **Daily Tracking vs. Quarterly Reporting**

- **Daily Tracking** means determining waste tonnage and where the waste is from and maintaining records of the data for audits.
- **Quarterly reporting** means compiling the information on waste tonnage and where the waste is from, as gathered through tracking during the quarter, and reporting the quarterly totals allocated to each city and county.

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It is important to understand the difference between daily tracking of information and quarterly reporting of summary information.

Daily tracking, for the purposes of DRS, means to collect information on where the waste is from and tonnage information as set in the regulations and described in this training.

Quarterly reporting, for the purposes of DRS, means to compile the daily information on where the waste is from and tonnage gathered through the quarter and report the quarterly totals allocated to each city and county. Quarterly information of city and county tonnage allocations is reported to each disposal facility to which the transfer station sends waste. Quarterly information is also sent to the county.

Daily tracking documentation maintained by your company should match the quarterly summary report data that is sent.